

**THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CIVIL CITY OF NEW ALBANY,
INDIANA, WILL HOLD A WORK SESSION IN THE THIRD FLOOR
ASSEMBLY ROOM OF THE CITY/COUNTY BUILDING ON THURSDAY,
JUNE 19, 2008 AT 6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council Members Mr. Coffey, Mr. Price, Mr. McLaughlin, Mrs. Benedetti, Mr. Messer, Mr. Zurschmiede and President Jeff Gahan.

Mr. Gahan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. to discuss the Ohio River Greenway Project.

Ms. Shauna Graf introduced herself to the council and presented a power point of the status report of the Ohio River Greenway. She stated that they would like to make this update and annual event so that the council can stay up-to-date on where the project is and can see where the money that they have invested in going. She informed the council that the Greenway in Jeffersonville is complete and the first section of the New Albany Greenway by Scribner Place is set to be completed this year. She explained that the project summary for 2007 states that the commission received \$983,000 in congressional funding that was to be allocated for use in 2009 and that money is going to be used on the New Albany side. She stated that in 2007 they had a 5K race along the greenway and it garnered a lot of attention from the public and generated interest in the greenway and its progress and they would like to do that again this year but on a larger scale. She went over the annual budgets that were in the report and stated that if they had any questions she would be happy to answer. She explained the graphic representation that they now have available for the greenway and went over their mission statement and history of the commission for the project. She went over the estimated use of funds to date with the council and detailed how the money is allocated as well as any salaries associated with the project. She broke down how the funding for the project was going to be spent in 2008 and what that meant for the New Albany segment.

Mr. Price stated that he had heard that with regards to the K&I bridge that the railroad was blocking it from pedestrian crossing.

Ms. Graf stated that there are developments going on right now and the City of Louisville is working towards the idea that the public access should be used but she thinks there will be legal ramifications of that. She stated that she isn't sure what is going to happen and that Mr. Wood would be a better person to answer those questions.

Ms. Graf stated that they do have events scheduled on the greenway starting with a clean sweep this Saturday that will start in Ashland Park in Clarksville and when the greenway is completed this cleanup will be able to expand to all three areas. She stated the annual 5K will be November 1st and they would like to have this completed for Harvest Homecoming.

Mr. Gonder asked what it would cost to build a mile of road

Ms. Graf asked he was talking just road or a multi-use path.

Mr. Wood stated that they have a little less than 1 mile in this project with approximately \$2.4M invested which includes the road surface, the 12 foot wide multi-use path, the 6 foot wide path at the top of the levy, lighting, limestone pathway, drainage and overhead for the inspections.

Ms. Graf stated that these are cost estimates based on the master plan and if that plan changes then the cost changes.

Mr. Gonder stated that if he is reading this correctly they have to go through the motions of building the multi-use path to get the federal money but they really had no intentions of using it as a vehicular path.

Ms. Graf stated that when they are talking about a multi-use path it is separate from the roadway. She stated that there will be times when it is not possible to install a multi-use path in certain areas but as far as the riverfront is concerned and the lower bridge, it was never on the master plan. She stated that once the greenway is completed they will concentrate on connecting the demonstration projects that are completed and that doesn't mean spending \$1M per mile but it is focusing on getting bikes and pathways through the areas.

Mr. Caesar asked if he was correct in hearing that the construction by the railroad is under way but it could take 3 more years to complete.

Ms. Graf stated that Clarksville has money for the design and construction and once they have the design done they can move into the construction phase. She stated that the reason the cost of these projects are so high is because they are running next to the riverbank and that increases the cost because you have to stabilize the bank and run bridges across the creek or upgrading the existing bridge and this all had to be done to the standards of INDOT and federal standards.

Mr. Wood stated that this area is very narrow and steep which will require some very extensive engineering so the per foot cost is going to be substantially higher than in other areas.

Mr. Messer asked about the homes down on the river as well as the boat club.

Mr. Wood stated that the boat club and the shacks that are out on the river are currently on private property and when it transitions back to the levy Floyd County owns it and they have talk with the commissioners about quick claiming the deed to that to the City of New Albany. He explained that once that is purchased that individuals on the private

property will need to be removed. He stated that the core of engineers will not fund recreational projects and that is why they didn't do anything with the boat ramp.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding who owns the pieces of property in the area as well as what they need from the City of New Albany is for the operating costs of the project each year which is estimated at \$12,000.

Mr. Caesar asked if they are responsible for the grant writing and securing any money that would come from that.

Ms. Graf stated that they were and that the _____ Foundation was the first time that any private money has come into the greenway. She stated that one of the areas that needed to be done had to have some environmental work and she and Mr. Wood worked on a grant and were awarded the funds to do that entire project and while it wasn't cash that came into New Albany for the project it would have been something they would have had to pay for out of pocket. She stated that she will take care of as much of the grant writing as possible but there are some grants that have to come from the entities where the property lies and again she will be instrumental in making sure that happens.

Ms. Graf explained that they have now appointed advisory committees to the commission to help move this project along as quickly as possible and they will need input from the different departments in the City.

Mr. Gahan asked when they would be back to give them another update.

Ms. Graf stated that it was her intention to be here in January and they would like to give them a yearly update because they are required by their charter to do an annual report and when that comes out she would like to update each community.

Mr. Rosenbarger addressed the issue with how the city is going to generate the money they need to match the funds for the project. He stated that transportation enhancement has gotten dramatically more competitive and what they are looking for is ready-to-go ready -to-build projects so it rest on them to be able to get these sections engineer and obtain the right-of-ways to obtain more grant money. He stated there is some risk but if they don't have it engineered and ready to go they have little chance of seeing this money.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to be heard, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Jeff Gahan, President
Common Council, City of New Albany

ATTEST: _____
Marcey Wisman, City Clerk